

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 ACDA-05 /076 W

----- 058351

R 011555Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3079

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMCONSUL ASMARA

S E C R E T CAIRO 3308

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS USBT

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN AMMO RESUPPLY: TRANSMITTAL OF GUIDANCE TO ELF/PLF

REF: A) STATE 58897; B) CAIRO 2788

1. FOLLOWING UP PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH MFA UNDERSEC EL SADR, POL/ECON COUNSELOR CALLED APRIL 1 TO INQUIRE WHETHER PRESS GUIDANCE (REFTELS) HAD BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO REPS OF ELF/PLF. TWO PREVIOUS CALLS ON MAR 24 AND 26 REVEALED THAT ACTION HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN AS OF THAT TIME. EL SADR NOW CONFIRMED THAT GUIDANCE HAD BEEN GIVEN TO "TWO INDIVIDUALS REPRESENTING EACH OF BRANCHES OF ERITREAN GROUP". HE SAID IT WAS PASSED "LAST WEEK".

2. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HTERE HAD BEEN ANY COMMENT, EL SADR SAID ELF/PLF REPS HAD SIMPLY NOTED GUIDANCE DOCUMENT AND DEPARTED.

3. COMMENT: EGYPTIAN PERFORMANCE IN THIS MATTER, CONSIDERING THAT THEY HAD AGREED TO TRANSMIT GUIDANCE TO ELF/PLF, IS LESS THAN STANDARD. EL SADR HAD SAID HE WOULD TAKE PROMPT ACTION AND THEN NOTIFY US. WHILE IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT IT COULD HAVE TAKEN TIME TO ARRANGE SUITABLE OCCASION TO MEET WITH ELF/PLF REPS,

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IT SHOULD NOT HAVE UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES TAKEN SO LONG.

THIS LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT, WHILE EGYPTIANS WERE HELPFUL THIS TIME, THEY ARE LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT PLAYING A GO-BETWEEN ROLE IN OUR DEALINGS WITH ELF/PLF. EL SADR'S EARLIER COMMENTS TO US ON MAR 17 THAT GOE WAS BEING ACCUSED BY OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES OF BEING OUT-OF-STEP WITH ARAB POSITION IN ITS RELATIONS WITH ELF/PLF MAY ACCOUNT FOR THE RELUCTANT WAY THEY HANDLED THIS MATTER. SERVING AS OUR AGENT IS NOT DESIGNED TO ENHANCE THEIR POSITION VIS-A-VIS THEIR ARAB BRETHREN. ON THE OTHER HAND, ENGAGING IN CONTACTS WITH ELF/PLF DOES NOT ASSIST GOE IN ITS RELATIONS WITH EPMG EITHER.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT, UNLESS DEPT FEELS STRONG NEED TO USE GOE AS CHANNEL TO ELF/PLF ON ANY FUTURE OCCASION, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO EMPLOY QUICKER AND MORE RELIABLE MEANS OF CONTACT.
EILTS

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